



Dear North Dakota Uniformed Service Members Stationed away from home,

Hello, I'm Al Jaeger, North Dakota's Secretary of State and the state's chief election official.

Elections allow us to exercise one of our most fundamental rights – the right to vote. Elections give us a voice in our state and national politics, they encourage us to take an active interest in our schools and neighborhoods, and permit us to speak out on issues and causes of interest and importance.

In North Dakota, voting is made very easy through absentee voting. Voting is especially accessible in North Dakota since voters are not required to register before voting.

I encourage uniformed service members to take advantage of the ease of voting in North Dakota during this election year!

Al Jaeger
North Dakota Secretary of State

☒ Voter Qualifications

In order to vote in North Dakota, you must be:

- A U.S. citizen;
- At least 18 years old on the day of election;
- A resident of North Dakota; and
- A resident in the precinct for 30 days preceding the election.

Please note that a citizen of the United States who is eighteen years of age or older, has never lived in the United States, and whose parent is a qualified elector of the state may vote absentee in this state for federal offices provided this individual has not registered to vote in any other state or territory of the U.S.

☒ Determining Residence

Voting residence can be summed up simply by the following excerpt from an opinion issued by the North Dakota Attorney General in May of 1995. The opinion states, "The act of voting does not make a person a resident [of North Dakota]. Rather, a person must be a resident prior to voting."

For the purpose of voting, the term residence and voting residence are the same in North Dakota. Every person has a residence. In determining residence, the following rules must be observed.

- A person's residence is the place where one remains when not called elsewhere for labor or other special or temporary purpose, and to which he or she returns in seasons of repose;
- A person can only have one residence;
- A person's residence cannot be lost until another is gained;
- A person's residence can be changed only by the union of act and intent.

[Section 54-01-26 of the North Dakota Century Code]

The law also says that an individual does not lose a voting residence by temporary assignment away from home.

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☒ North Dakota...The Only State Without Voter Registration

North Dakota is the only state without voter registration. Therefore, North Dakota voters have no pre-election day registration requirements prior to voting.

☒ Voting Still an Option

Even though duty calls many uniformed service members away from their home, their state of North Dakota, and sometimes their country, the right to vote is not diminished. It may be a greater challenge for the voter because the distances separating these individuals from their homes requires the use of the absentee voting process.

In 1991, North Dakota lawmakers gave uniformed service members stationed outside the United States the option to receive ballots and return voted ballots by fax. In 2005, North Dakota lawmakers broadened the laws to allow uniformed service members stationed anywhere away from home to receive voting materials by fax or email in order to speed delivery of these important documents to the residents of the state living far from home and often on the move. It was also determined that, as a last resort, voted ballots may be returned by these same methods provided the voter has access to the necessary technology required to do so. The preferable means of returning voted ballots is still, however, through the mail.

Family members of uniformed service personnel stationed outside the United States have been given this greater access to the North Dakota voting process as long as they remain qualified electors.

Uniformed service members who have been stationed away from North Dakota so long that their children, who have never lived in North Dakota, have grown to the age of qualified electors, may wonder about their voting rights. These children are granted the right to vote for North Dakota federal offices by virtue of their parent's elector status.

☒ Challenging Voters

In keeping with the federal laws of Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act and the Help America Vote Act, North Dakota election officials are required to notify uniformed service members and citizens living outside the United States whose absentee ballot application is denied. A reason for the denial is required and may be according to any of the following:

1. The individual offering to vote does not meet the citizenship requirements.
2. The individual offering to vote is not a legal resident of the state of North Dakota.
3. The individual offering to vote is not a resident of the county to which the application was sent.
4. The individual offering to vote is not old enough.
5. The individual offering to vote is currently under sentence for a felony conviction.

A voter does not lose the right to vote in North Dakota by virtue of being stationed or temporarily living away from the state even if a physical residence is not maintained. A voter maintains their voting residence at their most recent North Dakota address until the voter establishes a new voting residence elsewhere. A new voting address is established in another state by registering to vote.

It should be noted that falsely swearing to be a qualified elector is a class A misdemeanor and carries a maximum penalty of one-year imprisonment, a fine of \$2,000, or both.

The challenge process is not intended to be threatening or a form of intimidation. Rather, the challenge process is a normal component of the election process in North Dakota. Without voter registration, the challenge process is the only safeguard election boards can rely upon to screen persons wishing to vote in North Dakota.

☒ Voting Absentee in North Dakota

Absentee ballots are available to qualified electors wishing to vote absentee prior to the date of the election.

Absentee ballot applications may be found at the following web site: <http://www.nd.gov/sos/electvote/voting/voting-absentee.html> (please be sure to select the application for Uniformed Service Members or ND Resident Living Outside the U.S. Election officials of the county, city, or school district may also furnish absentee ballot applications to qualified electors. Application may also be made by providing the following information to the proper election official:

- the applicant's name;
- the applicant's current or most recent ND residential address;
- the applicant's mailing address;
- the applicant's current home telephone number;
- the election for which the ballot is being requested;
- the date of the request;
- an affirmation that the applicant has resided in the precinct for at least thirty days;
- the applicant's signature.
- voter's precinct or voting location if known
- voter's fax number (if voting materials are to be sent using this manner of transmission)
- voter's email address (if voting materials are to be sent using this manner of transmission)

Qualified electors are not required to provide a reason for requesting an absent voter's ballot.

Applications for absentee ballots may be delivered to the appropriate county auditor by mail, in person, or by fax. Uniformed service members stationed away from home and citizens living outside the United States may also receive and return voted ballots by fax and email according to North Dakota law. For more information, please consult with your voting assistance officer, the Secretary of State's office, or your county auditor.

According to North Dakota law, absentee ballots are to be made available by the 40th day before the election. Returned absentee ballots must have an official postmark or date stamp by the day before the election.

☒ Sources and Contacts for Military Voters

Uniformed service members stationed away from home who have questions about voting have many resources to look to for guidance.

Voting Assistance Officers

The best and most accessible resource concerning voting is the voting assistance officers assigned to each unit or base. These individuals are trained to respond to the many voting and residency related questions that arise.

Federal Voting Assistance Program

Toll Free 800-438-8683
Web Site www.fvap.gov
E-mail vote@fvap.ncr.gov

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) administered by the Secretary of Defense has three distinct goals. These are to:

1. Inform and educate United States citizens worldwide of their right to vote;
2. Foster voting participation; and
3. Protect the integrity of, and simultaneously enhance, the electoral process at the Federal, State and local levels.

The FVAP web site contains helpful information on voting procedures in the various states and includes voter registration and absentee voting deadlines and forms for military personnel to complete and return.

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North Dakota Secretary of State, Elections Division

Toll Free 800-352-0867 ext. 8-4146
Web Site www.nd.gov/sos
E-mail sosselect@state.nd.us

The North Dakota Secretary of State serves as North Dakota's chief election official. The Elections Division is ultimately responsible for carrying out and overseeing election laws and procedures throughout the state and its various political subdivisions.

As with the FVAP, the North Dakota Secretary of State's office also maintains a web site containing valuable information for voters, candidates, and the general public. The site also includes contact information for the state's 53 county election officials (County Auditors) along with absentee ballot applications and other useful election related pamphlets and forms applicable to North Dakota.

North Dakota's County Auditors

North Dakota's 53 county auditors serve as the chief election officials of the various counties. For the most part, these are the officials to whom you apply for and receive absentee ballots. Contact information for North Dakota's county auditors may be obtained from the following pages of this document, the Secretary of State's office at 800-352-0867 or the Secretary of State's web site www.nd.gov/sos/electvote/voting/index.html.

☒ How to Vote by Absentee Ballot

Whether you are stationed within the United States or overseas, voting by absentee ballot involves extra time. For this reason, please request your ballot as soon as you know that you will need to vote absentee. Absentee ballot applications may be made at any time during an election year and voters may request absentee ballots for all elections during that year. Therefore it is best to apply early.

Stationed and Living at Home in North Dakota

1. An absentee ballot application is available at the following site www.nd.gov/sos/electvote/voting/voting-absentee.html.
2. Send this application either by mail or fax to your county auditor. (ND county auditor contact information is included with this document. Please see next page.)

Stationed Away from Home

North Dakota uniformed service members stationed away from home or residents living outside the United States will find a specific absentee ballot application form at the following web site address www.nd.gov/sos/electvote/voting/voting-absentee.html. This form allows the election official to deliver voting materials to qualified electors by mail, fax, or electronic mail. This method considerably reduces the time required to deliver and return ballots to voters in remote areas of the world.

Please note that the signature on the absentee ballot application will be compared with the signature accompanying the returned voted ballot as a voter security measure.

Free Postage!

Absentee ballots to and from uniformed service members stationed away from home and ND residents living outside the U.S. will be delivered free of postage costs provided the letter is deposited within the United States mail system. Instructions will be provided with voting materials delivered from the county auditor. Additional information can also be found at the FVAP web site www.fvap.gov.

☒ ND County Auditor's Contact Information

The following is a listing of our 53 county auditors and their contact information. They want to help you to have a voice in government.

(see next page)

Adams County Auditor
Patricia (Pat) Carroll
602 Adams Ave
Box 589
Hettinger ND 58639-0589
701-567-4363 - phone
701-567-2910 - fax
pcarroll@state.nd.us

Barnes County Auditor
Edward McGough
230 4th Street NW, Room 202
Valley City ND 58072-2947
701-845-8500 - phone
701-845-8548 - fax
emcgough@co.barnes.nd.us

Benson County Auditor
Bonnie (Howard) Erickson
311 B Ave S
Box 206
Minnewaukan ND 58351-0206
701-473-5340 - phone
701-473-5571 - fax
bs Erickson@state.nd.us

Billings County Auditor
Sydney Hegge
Box 168
Medora ND 58645-0168
701-623-4377 - phone
701-623-4761 - fax
auditor@midstate.net

Bottineau County Auditor
Mae Streich
314 W 5th Street
Bottineau ND 58318-1204
701-228-2225 - phone
701-228-3658 - fax
mstreich@state.nd.us

Bowman County Auditor
Sandi Tivis
104 1st St NW
Box 439
Bowman ND 58623-0439
701-523-3130 - phone
701-523-5443 - fax
stivis@state.nd.us

Burke County Auditor
Teri Baumann
103 Main St SE
PO Box 310
Bowbells ND 58721-0310
701-377-2861 - phone
701-377-2020 - fax
tbaumann@state.nd.us

Burleigh County Auditor
Kevin Glatt
221 N 5th St
PO Box 5518
Bismarck ND 58506-5518
701-222-6718 - phone
701-222-7528 - fax
kglatt@state.nd.us

Cass County Auditor
Michael Montplaisir
211 9th St S
PO Box 2806
Fargo ND 58108-2806
701-241-5601 - phone
701-241-5728 - fax
montplaisir@co.cass.nd.us

Cavalier County Auditor
Dawn Roppel
901 3rd Street, Ste 15
Langdon ND 58249-2457
701-256-2229 - phone
701-256-2546 - fax
droppel@state.nd.us

Dickey County Auditor
Larry Hoffman
309 N 2nd St
Box 215
Ellendale ND 58436-0215
701-349-3249 ext. 3 - phone
701-349-4639 - fax
lhoffman@state.nd.us

Divide County Auditor
Gayle Jastrzebski
PO Box 49
Crosby ND 58730-0049
701-965-6351 - phone
701-965-6943 - fax
gjastrze@state.nd.us

Dunn County Auditor
Reinhard Hauck
PO Box 105
Manning ND 58642-0105
701-573-4448 - phone
701-573-4323 - fax
rehauck@state.nd.us

Eddy County Auditor
Darlene Haugen
524 Central Avenue
New Rockford ND 58356-1698
701-947-2434 ext. 2020 - phone
701-947-2279 - fax
dyhaugen@state.nd.us

Emmons County Auditor
Anna Mary Dockter
PO Box 129
Linton ND 58552-0129
701-254-4807 - phone
701-254-4012 - fax
amdockte@state.nd.us

Foster County Auditor
Roger Schlotman
474 10th Ave N
Box 104
Carrington ND 58421-0104
701-652-2441 - phone
701-652-2173 - fax
rschlotm@state.nd.us

Golden Valley County Auditor
Cecilia Stedman
Box 67
Beach ND 58621-0067
701-872-4331 - phone
701-872-4383 - fax
cstedman@midstate.net

Grand Forks County Auditor
Debbie Nelson
151 S 4th
PO Box 5726
Grand Forks ND 58206-5726
701-780-8200 - phone
701-780-8207 - fax
debbie.nelson@gfcounty.com

Grant County Auditor
Audrey Diehl
Courthouse
Box 227
Carson ND 58529-0227
701-622-3275 - phone
701-622-3005 - fax
adiehl@state.nd.us

Griggs County Auditor
Cindy Anton
808 Rollin Ave SW
Box 511
Cooperstown ND 58425-0511
701-797-3117 - phone
701-797-3587 - fax
cindy.anton@griggsnd.com

Hettinger County Auditor
Roy Steiner
Box 668
Mott ND 58646-0668
701-824-2515 - phone
701-824-2717 - fax
rsteiner@state.nd.us

Kidder County Auditor
Ruth Graf
120 E Broadway
PO Box 167
Steele ND 58482-0167
701-475-2632 - phone
701-475-2202 - fax
rgraf@state.nd.us

LaMoure County Auditor
Michial Johnson
Box 128
Lamoure ND 58458-0128
701-883-5301 ext. 203 - phone
701-883-4220 - fax
mjohnso@state.nd.us

Logan County Auditor
Blanche Schumacher
301 Broadway
Napoleon ND 58561-7010
701-754-2425 - phone
701-754-2280 - fax
baschuma@state.nd.us

McHenry County Auditor
Darlene Carpenter
407 S Main
Box 147
Towner ND 58788-0147
701-537-5724 - phone
701-537-5969 - fax
dcarpenter@state.nd.us

McIntosh County Auditor
Gina Ketterling
PO Box 39
Ashley ND 58413-0039
701-288-3347 - phone
701-288-3671 - fax
gketterl@state.nd.us

McKenzie County Auditor
Frances Olson
201 5th St W
Box 543
Watford City ND 58854-0543
701-444-3616 - phone
701-444-4113 - fax
folson@4eyes.net

McLean County Auditor
Les Korgel
PO Box 1108
Washburn ND 58577-1108
701-462-8541 - phone
701-462-3542 - fax
mcleanco@washburn.ctctel.com

Mercer County Auditor
Sandy Bohrer
1021 Arthur St
PO Box 39
Stanton ND 58571-0039
701-745-3292 - phone
701-745-3793 - fax
sbohrer@state.nd.us

Morton County Auditor
Paul Trauger
210 2nd Avenue NW
Mandan ND 58554-3158
701-667-3300 - phone
701-667-3453 - fax
ptrauger@state.nd.us

Mountrail County Auditor
Karen Eliason
PO Box 69
Stanley ND 58784-0069
701-628-2145 - phone
701-628-3975 - fax
karene@co.mountrail.nd.us

Nelson County Auditor
Jack Davidson
210 B Ave W Ste 201
Lakota ND 58344-7410
701-247-2463 - phone
701-247-2754 - fax
wdavidso@state.nd.us

Oliver County Auditor
Barbara Fleming
115 West Main
Box 188
Center ND 58530-0188
701-794-8721 - phone
701-794-3476 - fax
bfleming@state.nd.us

Pembina County Auditor
Dorothy Robinson
301 Dakota Street West #1
Cavalier ND 58220-4100
701-265-4231 - phone
701-265-4876 - fax
drobinso@state.nd.us

Pierce County Auditor
Karin Fursather
240 SE 2nd Street – Ste. 5
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701-776-5225 - phone
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Ramsey County Auditor
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Devils Lake ND 58301
701-662-7007 - phone
701-662-7049 - fax
befische@state.nd.us

Ransom County Auditor
Connie Gilbert
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Lisbon ND 58054-0668
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701-683-5827 - fax
cgilbert@state.nd.us

Renville County Auditor
LeAnn Fisher
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Mohall ND 58761-0068
701-756-6301 - phone
701-756-7158 - fax
lfisher@state.nd.us

Richland County Auditor
Harris Bailey
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Wahpeton ND 58075-4400
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701-642-7701 - fax
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Rolette County Auditor
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Sargent County Auditor
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Sheridan County Auditor
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Sioux County Auditor
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Slope County Auditor
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701-879-6278 - fax
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Stark County Auditor
Alice Schulz
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Steele County Auditor
Linda Leadbetter
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Finley ND 58230-0275
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701-524-1715 - fax
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Stutsman County Auditor
Noel A Johnson
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Jamestown ND 58401-4299
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701-251-6325 - fax
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Towner County Auditor
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Walsh County Auditor
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701-352-3340 - fax
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Ward County Auditor
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Williams County Auditor
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North Dakota Secretary of State
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